

"Hello, Jonathan, this is Aunt Laura. I was just wondering whether you could baby-sit the girls for me this afternoon," said Jonathan's aunt. Jonathan immediately had a heavy, horrible, sinking feeling in the pit of his stomach. Aunt Laura had four daughters and they were all bad news! Jonathan was their oldest cousin, at age fifteen, so he was asked to baby-sit all the time. "I am sorry, Aunt Laura, but I had planned to mow the yard and then go swimming in the pool," said Jonathan.

"That's absolutely perfect," squealed Aunt Laura, "because the girls just love to go swimming, and they won't be any trouble at all! I will bring them over around nine o'clock and I will pick them up after three, and I will make sure they have on their bathing suits under their clothes."

Later a station wagon pulled into the driveway, and his four cousins, ranging in age from two to seven years old, bounded out of every car door. Aunt Laura waved happily to Jonathan as she drove away.

The girls played and Jonathan mowed the lawn. Then he heard someone screaming and he cut off the mower. He recognized the familiar scream of Brook and raced to see what was the matter. She had fallen into an ant bed and ants were stinging her arms and legs with bites.

Brook was still long enough for Jonathan to wash the ants off her body, and then Jonathan decided that, since it had become so hot, he would finish mowing the lawn the next morning. "Who is ready to go swimming? I know I am, and the last one in is a rotten egg with mud on his face!" yelled Jonathan. The girls giggled with delight and ran to

the edge of the pool and jumped in. Jonathan threw each of them around in the pool. They were having so much fun that they did not hear Aunt Laura drive up.

"Hello, everyone. It's time to get ready to go home," she said. Her daughters were having so much fun that they did not want to go home. They whined and begged their mother to let them stay for awhile. "Well, it's up to Jonathan whether or not he wants to keep you any longer," said Aunt Laura. "It's OK with me, Aunt Laura" said Jonathan. "We are having such a good time."

Jonathan thought to himself with a laugh that he never would have thought he would say that in a million years!

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